

## Amendment to the Claims

### CLAIMS

1 – 6 (canceled)

7. (original) A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome consisting of fluvastatin or pitavastatin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (original) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the metabolic syndrome is associated with resistance to insulin-mediated glucose uptake, glucose intolerance, hyperinsulemia, increased LDL-cholesterol, increased VLDL and triglycerides, decreased HDL-cholesterol, increased plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1) levels and hypertension.

9. (original) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the metabolic syndrome is characterized by three or more of the following criteria:

1. Abdominal obesity: waist circumference >102 cm in men and >88 cm in women
2. Hypertriglyceridemia:  $\geq 150$  mg/dl (1.695 mmol/l)
3. Low HDL cholesterol: <40 mg/dl (1.036 mmol/l) in men and <50 mg/dl (1.295 mmol/l) in women
4. High blood pressure:  $\geq 130/85$  mmHg
5. High fasting glucose:  $\geq 110$  mg/dl (6.1 mmol/l).

10. (original) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the metabolic syndrome is characterized by diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, impaired fasting glucose, or insulin resistance plus two or more of the following abnormalities:

- 1 High blood pressure:  $\geq 160/90$  mmHg
- 2 Hyperlipidemia: triglyceride concentration  $\geq 150$  mg/dl (1.695 mmol/l) and/or HDL cholesterol <35 mg/dl (0.9 mmol/l) in men and <39 mg/dl (1.0 mmol/l) in women
- 3 Central obesity: waist-to-hip ratio of >0.90 in men or >0.85 in women and/or BMI >30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- 4 Microalbuminuria: urinary albumin excretion rate  $\geq 20$   $\mu$ g/min or an albumin to-creatinine ratio  $\geq 20$  mg/g.

11. (original) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the metabolic syndrome is characterized by three or more of the following criteria:

triglycerides >150 mg/dl, systolic blood pressure (BP)  $\geq 130$  mm Hg or diastolic BP  $\geq 85$  mm Hg or on antihypertensive treatment, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol <40 mg/dl, fasting blood sugar (FBS) >110 mg/dl, and a BMI >28.8 k/m<sup>2</sup>.

12. (original) A method for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome comprising in administering a pharmaceutical composition to the patient, wherein the pharmaceutical composition consists of fluvastatin or pitavastatin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (original) Method according to claim 12 wherein the metabolic syndrome is associated with resistance to insulin-mediated glucose uptake, glucose intolerance, hyperinsulemia, increased LDL-cholesterol, increased VLDL and triglycerides, decreased HDL-cholesterol, increased plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1) levels and hypertension.

14. (original) Method according to claim 12 wherein the metabolic syndrome is characterized by three or more of the following criteria:

1. Abdominal obesity: waist circumference >102 cm in men and >88 cm in women
2. Hypertriglyceridemia:  $\geq 150$  mg/dl (1.695 mmol/l)
3. Low HDL cholesterol: <40 mg/dl (1.036 mmol/l) in men and <50 mg/dl (1.295 mmol/l) in women
4. High blood pressure:  $\geq 130/85$  mmHg
5. High fasting glucose:  $\geq 110$  mg/dl ( $\geq 6.1$  mmol/l).

15. (original) Method according to claim 12 wherein the metabolic syndrome is characterized by diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, impaired fasting glucose, or insulin resistance plus two or more of the following abnormalities:

- 1 High blood pressure:  $\geq 160/90$  mmHg
- 2 Hyperlipidemia: triglyceride concentration  $\geq 150$  mg/dl (1.695 mmol/l) and/or HDL cholesterol <35 mg/dl (0.9 mmol/l) in men and <39 mg/dl (1.0 mmol/l) in women
- 3 Central obesity: waist-to-hip ratio of >0.90 in men or >0.85 in women and/or BMI >30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- 4 Microalbuminuria: urinary albumin excretion rate  $\geq 20$   $\mu$ g/min or an albumin to-creatinine ratio  $\geq 20$  mg/g.

16. (original) Method according to claim 12 wherein the metabolic syndrome is characterized by three or more of the following criteria:

triglycerides >150 mg/dl, systolic blood pressure (BP)  $\geq 130$  mm Hg or diastolic BP  $\geq 85$  mm Hg or on antihypertensive treatment, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol <40 mg/dl, fasting blood sugar (FBS) >110 mg/dl, and a BMI >28.8 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.